

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

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P 101415Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7467

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0066

LIMIDS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, CZ, US

SUBJECT: CLAIMS AGREEMENT

REF: PRAGUE 17

1. I HOPE TO HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK BEFORE RETURNING TO GENEVA JANUARY 20. I HAVE NO DOUBT HIS CENTRAL QUESTION WILL BE, "WHAT DOES RENEGOTIATION OF THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT MEAN, AND WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?"

2. IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH CZECH OFFICIALS, THEY HAVE CLEARLY BEEN EAGER TO SEE WHAT OUR ATTITUDE WILL BE NOW THAT LONG-GRAVEL HAS PASSED: WILL WE LEAVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN LIMBO, OR WILL WE MAKE PROPOSALS TO GET PAST THE LONG-GRAVEL ROADBLOCK. THEY HAVE STRESSED THAT THE BALL IS NOW IN OUR COURT, ALONG THE LINES OF THE CONCLUSION OF RUDE PRAVO'S JANUARY 2 ARTICLE (PRAGUE 006): "WE SHALL CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS IN CZECHOSLOVAK-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS, NOT TO THEIR FREEZING. WE FROM OUR SIDE HAVE DONE THE MAXIMUM FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS; NOW IT IS THE US TURN."

3. FROM THE WIRELESS FILE, WE ARE AWARE THAT THE SECRETARY PLANS TO MEET SOON WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ABOUT
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RESTRICTIONS IN THE TRADE BILL. NO DOUBT MAIN CONCERN

FOCUSES ON THE USSR, AND I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT MAJOR DECISIONS ABOUT POLICY TOWARD CZECHOSLOVAKIA MIGHT BE ATTENDANT UPON THOSE LARGER DELIBERATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, WHILE RECOGNIZING ALL OF THE WEIGHTLY ISSUES AT STAKE, I DO WANT TO INVITE THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR GIVING THE CZECHOSLOVAKS SOME FAIRLY EARLY INDICATION OF WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO DO IN THE WAKE OF LONG-GRAVEL PASSAGE. THE EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN SET FORTH IN THE REFTEL.

4. I WOULD HOPE THAT AT LEASE SOME PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION COULD BE GIVEN ME EARLY NEXT WEEK IN CASE I DO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH CHNOUPKE. SHERER

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